

Readings for the week of January 11, 2026

Sunday:

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/
Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

Monday:

1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/
Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday:

1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a,
8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:

1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/
Mk 1:40-45

Friday:

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/
Mk 2:1-12

Saturday:

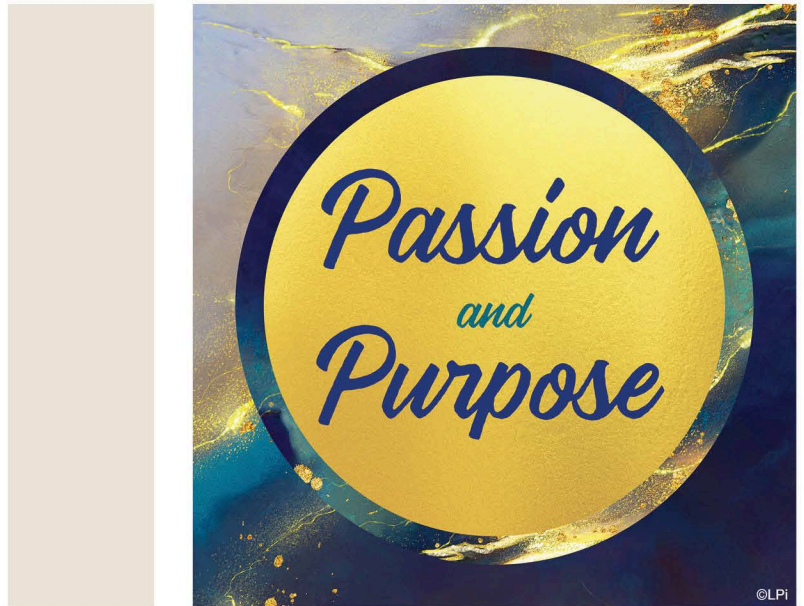
1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday:

Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/
1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Apple ran a commercial not long ago called “Behind the Mac – Greatness.” It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, “There’s a certain kind of person who doesn’t wait for greatness. They make it.” It’s a compelling message. There’s beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can’t anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today’s Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn’t preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: **“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”** It’s not a reward for success. It’s not earned. Before he does anything “great,” Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: “You are my beloved.” That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: When the voice of God declares, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.

When Jesus Wades In

Usually, when God comes to us, we aren’t ready.

We think we are. Like John the Baptist, we stand in our waters of baptism, certain of our mission. We know how it’s going to go. We know what’s going to be asked of us. We’re sure of it.

Christ wades into the waters. And he screws up all our plans.

To be clear, I don’t think John the Baptist lacks faith when he balks at the idea of baptizing Jesus. I think it is, in fact, a testament to his humility. But whatever motivated John’s actions, he is — if even for a brief moment — hesitating to do the will of God. Just a few chapters after this in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will acknowledge that John is the greatest person “born of women” — with the caveat that even he is not perfect enough for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Not yet.

Jesus didn’t give John an explanation as the two stood in the River Jordan. He merely said, “Allow it for now.” John could have resisted further, demanding to understand why. He could have grown suspicious at the simplicity of Jesus’ answer, at the strangeness of this request. He could have clung desperately to his version of How Things Are Supposed To Be, and in doing so, fostered doubt in his heart. He could have even stormed off, confused and angry.

He did none of these things, because John is, as Jesus says, the greatest born of women.

When the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God declares, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? **Catholic Life Explained**

Question:

At times, temptation seems so powerful that it is almost impossible to resist. How can I be stronger in my resolve to avoid sin and temptation?

Answer:

The saints have written that every human person desires the good. In a sense, we don’t desire sin itself. Temptation is powerful because there is at least some bit of good in it. Even in the blackest of sin, there is something good that becomes twisted. We can look for good in sin when we feel it is lacking in our own life. When we lack true relational intimacy, it can be easy to turn to lust. When we lack confidence in God in our own lives, it can be easy to judge others or to grasp for control over situations. When we lack peace in the present moment, it can be easy to compete with others or to treat others poorly in our quest for success.

Overcoming temptation isn’t just about repressing our sinful desires. If that’s all we do, they’ll just burst out someplace else! If there is a recurring temptation in your life, prayerfully consider why this is so appealing to you. Submit this to God and bring it to a wise person. And in the meantime, continue to resist temptation to sin. If we fail to choose God in small choices, we’re several steps down the road towards failing in larger ones. Pray for the grace to persevere!

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations. (Is 42:6)

Psalm:

The Lord will bless his people with peace. (Ps 29)

Second Reading:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him
and acts uprightly
is acceptable to him." (Acts 10:34-35)

Gospel:

And a voice came from the heavens, saying,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am
well pleased." (Mt 3:17)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

John could not believe that Jesus would seek baptism from him, a lowly mortal man. But our God is a humble God. He does not fear our weakness. He extends his hand, saying, "It is fitting." So take his hand. Begin the work he has set out for you.

Observances for the week of January 11, 2026

- Sunday:** The Baptism of the Lord
Tuesday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Anthony, Abbot
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

Joy is the experience of achieving what we most desire — and what we most desire is love. God made us in love and for love, and so, in the same way that a flower seeks the sunlight, our souls seek the warmth of true, selfless love.

Blessing for Baptismal Grace

Dear God,
Through Baptism, You called and claimed us as Your own, chosen and loved.
Pour Your blessing upon us as we remember our Baptism.
Plant Your identity in our hearts.
Help us to live as Your beloved.
Amen.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. - Mt 3:13-15

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Isaiah speaks of God using a servant to deliver justice to the nations of the world. When have you felt God calling you to do His work?

Second Reading:

Peter testifies how God and the Holy Spirit were active in the life and public ministry of Jesus. Do you sense the Holy Spirit present in your life?

Gospel:

John the Baptist initially hesitates baptizing Jesus. Do you have a friend or co-worker who needs your encouragement?



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After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." - Mt 3:16-17

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